An integrated approach to the Rhone River management to combine renewable energy production with territorial development and environmental preservation.
CNR, operator of the Rhone river

CNR was entrusted with the **concession of the Rhone** in 1934, to develop and exploit it in view to fulfilling three missions for the benefit of the community:

- **Electricity production**,  
- **Navigation**,  
- **Irrigation** of agricultural land
Balanced capital, wealth distributed to the territories, values shared by all

CNR stands out as a model of a virtuous company thanks to its shared capital which is evenly distributed between public and private interests.

Local authorities hold directly a part of the public capital and contribute to decision making within CNR’s governance.
Illustrations of how CNR is taking care of water resource and biodiversity all along the Rhone corridor:
The plan Rhône, a partnership program to reclaim and sustainably develop the Rhone river:

The Plan Rhône (2005-2025) is a program for sustainable development around the Rhone and Saone rivers, which aims to: 1) Prevent the risk of flooding; 2) Respect and improve the living environment of its inhabitants; 3) Ensure sustainable economic development.

The "Water and Biodiversity" strand defines 6 operational objectives:

- Improve water quality;
- Restore the functioning of the Rhone and the Saone;
- Restore ecological continuity and facilitate the circulation of migratory species;
- Share water resources and adapt to climate change;
- Share and enhance operational knowledge for effective action.
CNR’s action to restore ecological continuity on the Rhone river.

Since the 1990s, CNR has been implementing one of the most ambitious ecological restoration programs for a river ever undertaken at international level.

This program has already resulted in the restoration of more than 120 km of watercourse and river annexes, which represents almost a quarter of the river’s length.
Enhance the ability of migratory species to travel up the river

In addition to this restoration and maintenance work, CNR is carrying out actions designed to enable species to find their migration routes.

This way, CNR ensure the ecological continuity along the river by installing crossing structures that are favorable to species in the Rhone such as eels, aprons, shad, trout, grayling, etc.

Thus, since the first fish pass installed by CNR in 1952, 65 existing and operational structures are now dotted along the river and 17 others are planned.
Management of the natural area of Donzère-Mondragon

Thanks to its effective partnership-based management which ensure great nature conservation results of Donzère Mondragon Hunting & Wildlife Reserve.

It is now listed within the IUCN Green List and represents a unique case of an areas which meets the green List Sustainability Standard while being at the same time an industrial area where hydroelectricity is being produced. This site demonstrates that it is possible to conciliate human activity and high level of environmental protection.
Thinking about the future of Rivers

CNR instigated the founding of Initiatives for the future of great Rivers (IFGR), a non-governemental organization in the service of the general interest.

IFGR brings together a panel of actors who give a voice to rivers. It aims to make known and perpetuate the wealth represented by rivers for the benefit of the territories they cross, through collective reflection, spreading awareness among the general public, alerting and developing solutions.

IFGR provides an original forum that is international, multidisciplinary, open to stakeholders and oriented towards action on behalf of the rivers of the world.

https://www.initiativesfleuves.org/
CNR acts against plastic pollution to preserve rivers and the ocean

Aware of the interaction between land and ocean, CNR is voluntarily doing its part in the fight against plastic pollution. In cooperation with its partners, it is using its ability to mobilize the different stakeholders in the Rhone region and contribute to scientific research, awareness-raising and testing of solutions.

In partnership with Tara Ocean Foundation and IAGF, CNR is working with local authorities to fight against this pollution through the "plastic-free river" charter. Around 130 elected representatives have joined the initiative.
Thank you for your attention!

Join us and our partners during the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Marseille:
- on the Nature Generation Areas and,
- on Vigilife’s stand within the forum area.